Since the December 2005 P-16 Council meeting, the following P-16 local council initiatives have been recommended for funding pending signing of memoranda of agreement:

- *Kentucky River P-16 Council -- $14,000*
  Originally covering Perry, Breathitt, Knott, and Leslie counties, Letcher County was added in October. The Kentucky River P-16 Council has completed an updated education needs analysis, and a continuation grant has been awarded to the council to aid in its mission to: 1) expand into or form a sister council in three other counties (Lee, Owsley, and Wolfe); 2) develop and implement various public communication strategies to raise educational awareness and instill higher value of education; 3) identify critical "transition drop-out points" from elementary grades through college, and to promote enrollment in and completion of GED's; 4) work with local K-12, postsecondary, and adult education providers to review and implement curriculum alignment group initiatives in English and mathematics to ensure that student skills are meeting college and workplace competency requirements; and 5) form a reading literacy advisory council.

- *Big Sandy Region P-16 Council -- $16,000*
  The Big Sandy Region P-16 Council is a partnership of superintendents and school leaders, representatives from the Big Sandy Community and Technical College, the Johnson County Adult Education Program, Morehead State University, staff from the Kentucky Educational Development Corporation, and local employers. The council encompasses Floyd, Johnson, Pike, Magoffin, and Martin counties. Its mission is to undertake a workforce needs assessment and to develop and support initiatives to raise student educational attainment by increasing high school graduation, GED attainment, and postsecondary graduation at both the two- and four-year levels. The Big Sandy Region P-16 Council will continue to link its initiatives to the State P-16 Council's three initial areas of focus: 1) student transition from P-12 to higher education, 2) P-16 curriculum alignment, and 3) teacher quality.

- *Southeast Area P-16 Council – Clay County Expansion Grant Proposal -- $5,800*
  The Southeast Area P-16 Council was formed when the Whitley County Board of Education and the Whitley County Go Higher Community (Corbin Independent, Williamsburg Independent, and Whitley County school districts) expanded its P-16 council into Laurel, Knox, and Bell counties in the fall of 2004. The council is expanding to include Clay County and will continue to implement the following objectives: 1) improve the literacy skills of students at all levels, including adult education; 2) create cross-institutional relationships to collect, analyze, use, and report data; 3) set clear, high standards for K-12, adult education, and college students; 4) align high school exit criteria with college admission and workplace competency requirements; 5) improve the preparation of new teachers and provide intensive professional development for existing teachers, including adult education instructors;

6) increase the number and diversity of students attending postsecondary institutions by emphasizing programs that persuade parents and students to plan early for advanced education; and 7) reduce the percent of adults and students who take developmental courses in postsecondary education.

Funding for local councils is now obligated through FY 2006.

Funding for the coming biennium to support the formation and new initiatives of local councils, jointly proposed last January by the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Education Professional Standards Board through the Education Cabinet, was not included in the executive budget. Support for the work of local P-16 councils is widespread, and the CPE and local council representatives continue to seek means of funding P-16 initiatives at the local level. Without additional funding the local councils will be severely hampered in their efforts to support P-16 initiatives.

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